

**RULES  
OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF  
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING EXAMINERS**

**CHAPTER 0120-5  
CONTINUING EDUCATION**

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**0120-5-.01 PURPOSE.** The Tennessee State Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners is authorized by Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d) (Acts 1995, Public Chapter 129), to establish continuing education requirements and standards for architects, engineers, landscape architects and registered interior designers in order to safeguard life, health and property and to promote the public welfare. The purposes of this chapter are to prescribe the basic continuing education requirements for present and future architects, engineers, landscape architects and registered interior designers and to establish standards by which continuing education programs will be evaluated for the awarding of credit.

**Authority:** Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997.

**0120-5-.02 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) “ACTIVE” means a registered architect, engineer, landscape architect or registered interior designer who has complied with the continuing education requirements described herein.
- (2) “BOARD” means the Tennessee State Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners.
- (3) “INACTIVE” means a registered architect, engineer, landscape architect or registered interior designer who has obtained inactive status from the Board and is not required to comply with the continuing education requirements prescribed herein. An inactive registrant may not engage in the practice of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture or use the title “registered interior designer” in the State of Tennessee.
- (4) “PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOUR (PDH)” means a contact (clock) hour consisting of not less than fifty (50) minutes of instruction or presentation acceptable to the Board.
- (5) “REGISTRANT” means a person licensed by the Board as an architect, engineer, landscape architect or registered interior designer.
- (6) “SPONSOR” means an individual, organization, association, institution or other entity which provides an educational activity for the purpose of fulfilling the continuing education requirements of these rules.

**Authority:** Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997.

**0120-5-.03 CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW.**

- (1) The Board may review and may approve sponsors and programs as being relevant to the practice of the represented profession. The Board shall establish a format for documentation needed to comply with these rules. The Board shall also adopt guidelines for auditing continuing education credits claimed. The Chairman of the Board shall, for each represented profession, appoint one (1) member of the Board who is a member of the represented profession to serve as the chairman of any committee appointed to review continuing education.

**Authority:** Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997.

**0120-5-.04 BASIC REQUIREMENTS.**

- (1) A registrant seeking biennial renewal for the first time after initial registration shall, as a prerequisite to renewal, submit satisfactory evidence to the Board of having obtained twelve (12) PDH's the two (2) years immediately following initial registration and immediately preceding application for renewal. At least seven (7) of the PDH's claimed shall address health, safety and welfare issues and technical competency.
- (2) A registrant seeking biennial renewal for each two (2)-year period thereafter shall, as a prerequisite to renewal, submit satisfactory evidence to the Board of having obtained twenty-four (24) PDH's the two (2) years immediately preceding application for renewal (carryover hours, not exceeding twelve (12) hours, from the preceding renewal period may be included). At least thirteen (13) of the PDH's claimed shall address health, safety and welfare issues and technical competency.
- (3) A new registrant is not required to satisfy the continuing education requirements prescribed in this chapter as a prerequisite for initial registration. However, at the time of first registration renewal, the registrant must demonstrate completion of the required continuing education.
- (4) Individuals reapplying for registration shall, as a prerequisite to registration, submit evidence satisfactory to the Board of having obtained twenty-four (24) PDH's (thirteen (13) of which shall address health, safety and welfare issues and technical competency) during the twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding reapplication.

**Authority:** Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997. Amendment filed May 20, 2004; effective August 3, 2004. Repeal and new rule filed March 14, 2005; effective May 28, 2005.

**0120-5-.05 CONVERSION TABLE.**

- (1) Conversions from other units of continuing education to PDH's is as follows:
  - (a) One (1) university semester hour of credit.....15 PDH
  - (b) One (1) university quarter hour of credit.....10 PDH
  - (c) One (1) Continuing Education Unit .....10 PDH
  - (d) One (1) hour acceptable professional development education.....1 PDH

**Authority:** Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997.

**0120-5-.06 TYPES OF ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION.**

- (1) The Board will grant credit for only such continuing education activities that satisfy the following criteria:
  - (a) There is clear purpose and objective for each activity which will maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge obtained prior to initial licensure or to develop new and relevant skills and knowledge.
  - (b) The content of each presentation is well-organized and presented in a sequential manner.
  - (c) There is evidence of pre-planning.
  - (d) The presentation will be made by persons who are well-qualified by education or experience.
- (2) Continuing education activities for which credit may be given by the Board include, but are not limited to the following:
  - (a) Successful completion or monitoring of college or university sponsored courses;
  - (b) Successful completion of courses which are awarded continuing education units (CEU's);
  - (c) Attendance at structured seminars, tutorials, short courses, correspondence courses, televised courses, Internet courses, or videotaped courses;
  - (d) Attendance at in-house educational programs sponsored by corporations or other organizations;
  - (e) Teaching or instructing as described in (a) through (d) above, unless teaching or instructing is the registrant's regular employment;
  - (f) Authoring published papers, articles or books;
  - (g) Making presentations at technical meetings;
  - (h) Attendance at program presentations at related technical or professional meetings where program content is comprised of at least one (1) PDH.
  - (i) All such activities as described in (a) through (h) above must be relevant to the practice of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture or interior design as determined by the Board and may include technical, ethical or managerial content.

**Authority:** Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997. Amendment filed May 20, 2004; effective August 3, 2004. However; Stay of effective date to subparagraph (c) of paragraph (2) filed by the House and Senate Government Operations Committee of the Tennessee General Assembly on July 30, 2004; new effective date October 2, 2004.

**0120-5-.07 CREDITS.**

- (1) Professional Development Hours of credit for qualifying courses successfully completed which offer semester hour, quarter hour, or CEU credit are as specified above. All other activities will be credited one (1) PDH for each contact hour with the following exceptions:
  - (a) Monitoring of university or college courses will be credited at one-third (1/3) the above-stated conversion table.

(Rule 0120-5-.07, continued)

- (b) Teaching or instructing qualifying courses or seminars will be credited at twice the PDH's earned by a participating student and may be claimed for credit only once.
- (c) Authorship of papers, articles or books cannot be claimed until actually published. Credit earned will equal preparation time spent not to exceed twenty-five (25) PDH's per publication.
- (d) Correspondence course PDH's may be considered acceptable to the Board, but the registrant shall submit, upon request, supporting documentation to demonstrate high quality course content.

**Authority:** *Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d).* **Administrative History:** *Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997.*

#### **0120-5-.08 EXEMPTIONS.**

- (1) A registrant may be exempt from continuing education requirements for any of the following reasons:
  - (a) A new registrant is not required to satisfy the continuing education requirements prescribed in this chapter as a prerequisite for initial registration. However, at the time of first registration renewal, the registrant must demonstrate completion of the required continuing education.
  - (b) A non-career military registrant serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of time exceeding one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days in a calendar year shall be exempt from obtaining the Professional Development Hours required during that year.
  - (c) A registrant employed as an architect, engineer, landscape architect or registered interior designer and assigned to duty outside the United States for a period of time exceeding one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days in a calendar year shall be exempt from obtaining the Professional Development Hours required during that year.
  - (d) A registrant who lists his or her occupation as "Retired" or "inactive" on the Board-approved renewal form and who further certifies that he or she is no longer practicing shall be exempt from the Professional Development Hours required. In the event such a person elects to return to active practice, PDH's must be earned for each year exempt not to exceed the annual requirement for two (2) years before the person returns to active practice.

**Authority:** *Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d).* **Administrative History:** *Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997. Amendment filed May 20, 2004; effective August 3, 2004.*

#### **0120-5-.09 CERTIFICATION.**

- (1) A registrant seeking renewal shall complete the certification on the renewal form and indicate the number of PDH's claimed for the renewal period. If applicable, the registrant shall also indicate the number of carryover PDH's claimed for the renewal period. Upon completion of the certification, the registrant shall complete the renewal form and submit the appropriate fee.

**Authority:** *Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d).* **Administrative History:** *Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997.*

#### **0120-5-.10 RECORDS.**

- (1) Each registrant is responsible for maintaining records which may be used to support credits claimed.
- (2) Required records include but are not limited to the following:

(Rule 0120-5-.10, continued)

- (a) A log showing the type(s) of activity claimed, sponsoring organization, location, duration, instructor's or speaker's name, description of the activity and PDH credit(s) earned; and
  - (b) A transcript or completion certificate or at least two (2) of the following types of documentation: attendance verification records in the form of signed attendance receipts, paid receipts, a copy of a listing of participants signed by a person in responsible charge, or other documents supporting evidence of attendance.
- (3) Records must be maintained for a period of four (4) years, and copies must be furnished to the Board for audit verification purposes within thirty (30) days of the Board's request.
  - (4) Any registrant who fails to comply with the requirements of this rule may be deemed by the Board to have violated rule 0120-2-.02 [Proper Conduct of Practice].

**Authority:** *Tenn. Code Ann. §§62-2-203(c) and (d) and 62-2-308. Administrative History:* Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997. Amendment filed July 19, 2002; effective October 2, 2002. Amendment filed May 20, 2004; effective August 3, 2004.

#### **0120-5-.11 DISALLOWANCE.**

- (1) If the Board disallows claimed PDH credits, the registrant shall within one hundred eighty (180) days after notification of same substantiate the original claim or earn other credit to meet the minimum requirements.

**Authority:** *Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d). Administrative History:* Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997.

#### **0120-5-.12 NONCOMPLIANCE.**

- (1) Unless a request for inactive or retired status is made, any registrant failing to furnish the required certification during the renewal period, properly completed and signed, shall not be granted renewal of registration by the Board.
- (2) Certificates of registration shall be subject to late renewal for six (6) months following their expiration date by payment of the renewal fee, plus a late penalty as set by the Board, along with a properly completed and signed renewal form indicating that all continuing education requirements for the renewal period have been completed. The applicant for late renewal of certification may not offer to engage in the practice of or engage in the practice of architecture, engineering or landscape architecture, or use the title "registered interior designer," until all late renewal requirements have been met.
- (3) Any person wishing to renew a certificate later than six (6) months after its expiration shall reapply for registration.

**Authority:** *Tenn. Code Ann. §§62-2-203(d), 62-2-307, and 63-2-308(a)(1)(E). Administrative History:* Original rule filed April 25, 1997; effective July 9, 1997. Amendment filed July 19, 2002; effective October 2, 2002.

#### **0120-5-.13 RECIPROCITY.**

- (1) If, in the determination of the Board, a state or territory of the United States, or another country, is deemed to have established substantially equivalent requirements for continuing education for architects, engineers, landscape architects or interior designers, and that state, territory or country grants reciprocity to Tennessee registrants, then the Board may grant reciprocal rights to registrants in good standing in that state, territory or country.

(Rule 0120-5-.13, continued)

- (2) This rule shall apply only to the acceptance of professional development hours for continuing education and shall not be construed to apply to the registration by comity of architect, engineer, landscape architect or interior designer applicants from another state, territory of the United States or country.

**Authority:** *Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-203(d).* **Administrative History:** *Original rule filed February 26, 1999; effective May 12, 1999.*